

Application Serial No: 10/627,103
In reply to Office Action of 2 June 2004

Attorney Docket No. 82858

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-14, 16 and 17 are rejected. Claims 1, 8, 11 and 18 are amended by this action. Claims 5, 7, 15 and 19 are canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Russell contending that Russell discloses the claimed structure including an asymmetric array. The Examiner noted index number 17 of FIG. 2A for this disclosure. The Examiner also identified support cable 6, an array 12 and 13 and a depressor 19.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6, 9-14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. S 103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell in view of Ayers. The Examiner stated that Russell does not disclose a streamlined support casing with a rounded nose and a tapered tail and a single support cable and a single depressor. The Examiner contended that Ayers teaches a streamlined support casing with a rounded nose and a tapered tail and a single support cable and a single depressor 10. The Examiner found it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the support casing of Russell with a streamlined support casing with a rounded nose and a tapered tail as taught by Ayers for reduced drag and to

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provid a single support cable and single depresser for reduced drag.

These rejections and objections are respectfully traversed in view of these amendments and remarks.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject of claim 5 therein and to correct a typographical error. In the preamble of claim 1, "multilane" was replaced with multiline. While inserting claim 5, Applicants noticed an incorrect term in claims 5, 7, 15 and 19. The original text of these claims specified that the array connector was for communications connection with said depressor. The term "depressor" is incorrect in these claims, and Applicants have replaced it with "array". Applicants suggest that the prior art does not teach or make obvious an array connector positioned in a support cable having signal components and mechanical components. Applicants respectfully solicit reconsideration and allowance of claim 1. Claim 8 has been amended to change its dependency from canceled claim 7 to claim 1. Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 should be allowable by dependency. Claims 5 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice as being redundant.

Applicants have amended claim 11 to incorporate the limitations of claim 19 as modified above. Applicants respectfully solicit reconsideration and allowance of claim 11. Claim 18 has been amended to change its dependency from canceled

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claim 15 to claim 11. Claims 12-14, 16-18 should be allowable by dependency. Claims 15 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice as being redundant.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone James M. Kasischke, Attorney for Applicants, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,
MICHAEL T. ANSAY ET AL.

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BY



JAMES M. KASISCHKE
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 36562